

Attorney Docket No.: 0180231
Application Serial No.: 09/826,634

In the Drawings:

Please replace informal drawing sheets of Figures 1, 3A through 3C, and 4 with enclosed formal drawing sheets of the same Figures. Replacement drawing sheets are enclosed herewith.

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REMARKS

Prior to the present amendment and response, claims 9-10 and 17-21 were pending in the present application. The Examiner has allowed claims 9-10. By the present amendment, claims 9-10 have been amended to correct a typographical error, and claim 17 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection of claims 17-21. As such, claims 9-10 and 17-21 remain in the present application while claims 9-10 stand allowed. For the reasons that follow, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the outstanding claims 17-21.

A. Drawing Amendments

The informal drawings of Figures 1, 3A through 3C, and 4 have been converted to formal drawings, per Examiner's request on page 2 of the present Office Action. Applicant submits that all drawings of Figures 1 through 4 are now formal drawings and comply with the requirements of 37 CFR §1.84.

B. Claim Amendments

The Examiner has allowed claims 9 and 10 (page 5 of the present Office Action, numbered paragraph 8), and has presented a statement of reasons for allowance in the subsequent paragraph. Applicant has incorporated substantially the same limitations stated by the Examiner to constitute allowable subject matter in the remaining pending claims, i.e. amended claim 17 and its dependent claims,

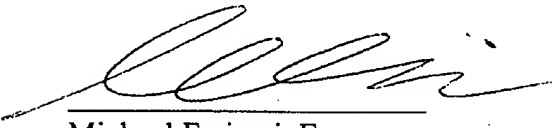
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in the present application. Moreover, amended claim 17 and its dependent claims have limitations in addition to those constituting allowable subject matter according to the Examiner. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests an early Notice of Allowance directed to claims 17-21, as well as the already allowed claims 9-10.

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Respectfully Submitted,
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Dated: 9/15/05


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